

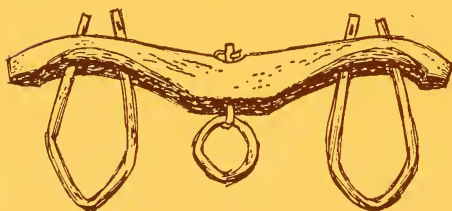
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Cannon, Joseph

I Knew Abraham Lincoln

LINCOLN ROOM

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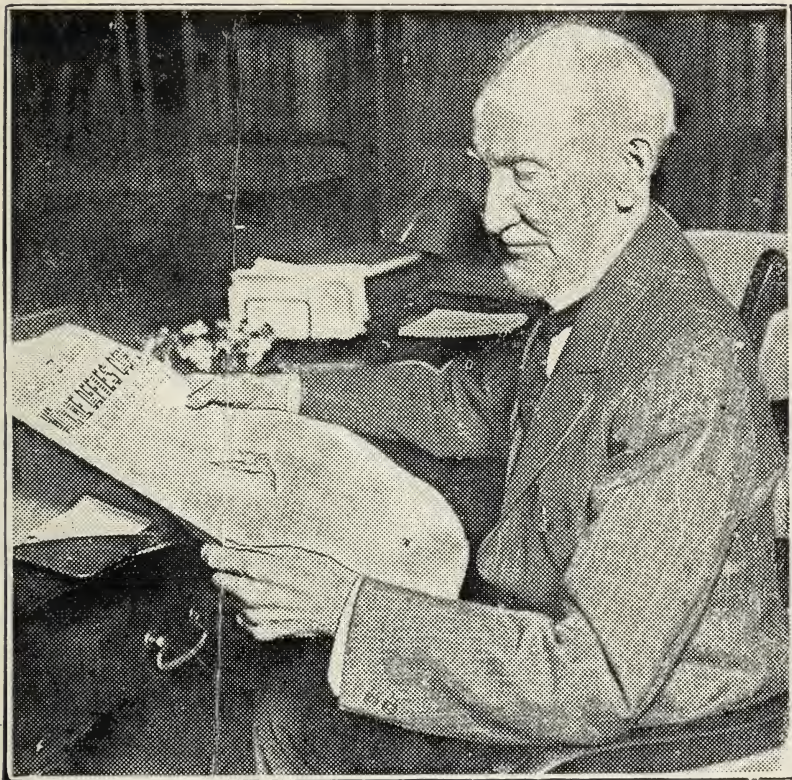
HARLAN HOYT HORNER

*and*

HENRIETTA CALHOUN HORNER

## *"I Knew Abraham Lincoln"*

(An Address Delivered in Danville, Illinois, October 20, 1922, at the Dedication of the Lincoln Marker on the Lincoln Circuit.)



UNCLE JOE CANNON

(Photo Taken on 90th Birthday.)

..... When the end came the family doctor told the waiting friends, "There was no illness; Uncle Joe just went to sleep." He remembered the hardships encountered by Lincoln, Lamon, Davis and the others when they rode the Old Eighth Circuit and he lived to spend hours at the radio and the picture show. Sometimes his afternoon nap was disturbed by the drone of an airplane motor in the heavens.—"LINCOLN AND LAMON," by CLINT CLAY TILTON.

PILGRIMAGE  
THE LINCOLN GROUP  
Down the Old Hubbard Trace  
CHICAGO TO DANVILLE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1934.





The Barnum Building, Where Abraham Lincoln and Ward Hill Lamon  
Had Their Law Office.



<b>ABRAHAM LINCOLN,</b> <i>Springfield.</i>	<b>W. H. LAMON,</b> <i>Danville</i>
<b>Lincoln &amp; Lamon,</b> <b>ATTORNEYS AT LAW,</b>	
<b>H</b> AVING formed a co-partnership, will practice in the Courts of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and the Superior Court, and all business entrusted to them will be attended to with promptness and fidelity.	
<i>Office on the second floor of the Barnum  Building, over Whitcomb's Store.</i>	
Danville, Nov. 10, 1852.	iv4tf

Professional Card of Lincoln & Lamon in Danville  
Weekly Citizen in 1852.

978.7463

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# I KNEW LINCOLN

Address of Hon. Joseph G. Cannon at dedication of Circuit Memorial Marker,  
on the Lincoln Circuit, Danville, Illinois, October 20, 1922.

*(Stenographer's Report.)*

Chairman, Representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I do not often greet an audience in this way, since the women are voting; it is just "Citizens." I have listened with you to the various addresses, and have enjoyed them. I am not going to talk a great while, but am going to tell what I know about Lincoln. I first saw and heard Lincoln at Charleston in 1858, when he debated with Stephen A. Douglas. I had just begun to practice law; had left Indiana and come to Illinois that year.

I heard that debate at Charleston between Lincoln and Douglas; it was the first time I had seen either of them. It was a wonderful debate. I realized that Douglas was a great man—the leader of his party, not only in Illinois, but of the entire country. He was a fine talker, too, but after hearing them, I thought Lincoln made the better speech. Of course I was a Republican.

I moved from Shelbyville to Tuscola, in Douglas county. It was a new county, named for Stephen A. Douglas. I didn't have much money. The hotel keeper let me stay and I told him I would pay him sometime. Then I had the cheek to ask him for a loan.

In 1860 I made speeches for Lincoln in Douglas, Clark, Coles and Edgar counties. I rode an old horse and lived off the country. That section was about evenly divided politically, but in some communities there were many Democrats. These people would not let a Republican come into their homes. They came into Illinois from the South. I told them I was born in North Carolina. Of course they then took me in and let me stay overnight.

I was sent as a delegate to the Republican state convention, which met at Decatur. I rode over from Tuscola to Decatur in a two-horse farm wagon with another man. We carried our grub with us. The state was pretty well divided as to the selection of a Republican candidate for president. Northern Illinois was favorable to Seward of New York, but the central and southern sections favored Lincoln. As we drove into Decatur we saw a man named Vanderen, who knew Lincoln and was always talking about him. As we drove down the street he startled everyone by calling out: "Jesus Christ; there's Old Abe. Howdy, Abe." Lincoln looked up, saw who it was, and yelled back: "Well, if it isn't Archibald Vanderen."

In the afternoon I had a telegram to send and Vanderen walked down to the station with me; it was at the crossing of the two roads—the only telegraph office there. Lincoln also came down with a telegram to send. That was my first formal introduction to Abraham Lincoln. Vanderen looked at him and said: "Abe, do you think you ought to be here; you aren't the candidate?"



VERMILION COUNTY COURT HOUSE OF CIRCUIT RIDING DAYS  
Built by Gurdon S. Hubbard in 1852 and Destroyed by Fire in 1873.

*State of Illinois }  
 Vermilion County } ss. Commissioners Court, March Term, 1832  
 Do the agent for said county.  
 Give - Pay Gurdon S. Hubbard Six  
 hundred Dollars out of any money in your hands not other-  
 wise appropriated, being the amount to be advanced to  
 him towards the erection of a court house.  
 Attest,  
 A Williams clerk*

### PAYMENT ORDER

Clerk's Order for an Advance Payment of \$600 to Hubbard for  
Building Court House.



Lincoln answered: "Arch, I am hardly enough of a candidate to stay here, yet I must be enough of a candidate to be here." That was just like Lincoln.

I heard more about Lincoln at that convention. Dick Oglesby and Dennis Hanks were there. Oglesby was a great friend of Lincoln; Hanks was a relative. Many years before this, while on his way West, Lincoln stopped on his way in Coles county, and a little while in Macon county. Hanks put him to work. Lincoln was always ready to work as a boy and as a man. They split some rails; these were walnut rails. At this convention Oglesby took Dennis Hanks out and brought two of the rails in. There was a great crowd of delegates in the street. It was about as far as from here to that house (pointing) when the crowd raised the cry, "Make way, make way, for Dick Oglesby and Dennis Hanks." Dennis Hanks said he and Lincoln cut these rails when he (Lincoln) was on his way West so many years before that time. The crowd took Lincoln, who had just come up, and passed him over their heads and the rails were taken up to the stand. An inquisitive man said, "Mr. Lincoln, did you make those rails?" "Dennis Hanks says we cut those rails; I don't know, but I made a better one." The rail-splitter, you know; it made him hundreds and thousands of friends and votes in the campaign.

The National Republican convention was held at Chicago and I went over to Shelbyville to see the boys off. A railroad official there asked me if I didn't want to go to Chicago. I told him I would like to, but that I did not have the money. He at once wrote me a pass to Chicago and back to Shelbyville. I reminded him of that afterward.

I met Lincoln after he was elected to the presidency, as he was on his way to Coles county to visit his step-mother for the last time. I was on my way to Mattoon to try a case before the justice of the peace. Tom Marshall of Champaign, a lawyer who long ago "crossed over", was with him. Marshall said to Mr. Lincoln after we met: "This young man made many speeches for your candidacy in the counties in this part of the State." "I hope they were good ones, and of course they were," Mr. Lincoln replied. I did not deny they were, for, indeed, I was a bit stuck on myself over them.

Abraham Lincoln had the courage of his convictions. He did not hate the South. No, no. He tried to persuade them to come back. There were some great men in the South, but they wanted to dissolve the Union. The North is glad they failed, and the South is substantially glad they were whipped. When the first gun was fired at the beginning of that great struggle, and they began to secede and did secede by the wholesale, Lincoln got ready rapidly.

When Lincoln was president, he made Stanton, who was no friend of his, secretary of war. Lincoln's friends, who knew Stanton, went to the president and said: "Stanton ought to be secretary of war, but we know he insulted you at one time." Lincoln said: "Let that drop; do you think I ought to make Stanton sec-



THE OLD M'CORMICK HOUSE, DANVILLE, ILLINOIS, IN 1884  
Headquarters for Lincoln, Davis and the Circuit Riders



retary of war?" "Yes, he is a man of iron and great ability," was the answer. No further discussion was had. Stanton was made secretary of war.

When the war was over, Lincoln went to the theatre; Stanton went with him. (*sic*) Booth saw Lincoln. There was a fatal shot and as he died early in the morning, Stanton laid his hand on Lincoln's forehead and said, "He is of the Ages, now."

Yes, he is with the Ages.

After the Master, who was crucified for us, after our Lord and Savior whom we worship in our hearts and thoughts; after Him, I think Lincoln was the greatest character. Lincoln stands as one of the greatest men and will continue so to stand as long as Civilization remains with us.

I had no thought of making a speech, but thought I would reminisce a little.

Lincoln was the first President who was assassinated. Two have been assassinated since that time. The population as it was a hundred years ago did not think of killing their officials, but the next one to cross over was the great man, Garfield, and the next was Ohio's favorite son, McKinley. God grant there may never be the assassination of another President of the United States.

Thank you.



A LETTER FROM JUDGE DAVID DAVIS TO WARD HILL LAMON

Danville, Ill., May 10, 1861.

DEAR HILL:

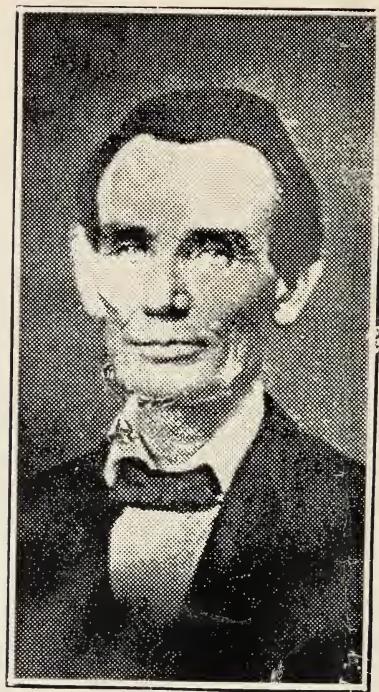
I have written you about every week since I left Urbana. Dan Voorhees has been here for two days. He is a devoted friend of yours. He feels badly about the state of the country but is for the maintenance of the Union.

Mr. Joseph G. Cannon, the new Prosecutor, is a pleasant, unassuming gentleman and will in time make a good prosecutor.

I need not tell you that it is lonesome here—on account of your absence. This is my last court here and no lawyer is practicing here who was practicing here when I held my first court. This is emphatically a world of change.

Your friend as ever,

DAVID DAVIS.



Copy of Daguerreotype made in Danville, Illinois, in May, 1858, by A. J. T. Joslin, and presented to T. J. Helgard.

## DANVILLE HIGH LIGHTS IN THE LINCOLN STORY

May 27, 1853—Lincoln made answer to the suit of Edward Oldham and Thomas Hemingway, of Lexington, Ky., for \$472.54, alleged to be due them for money collected and withheld by him. The answer was sworn to before Samuel G. Craig, clerk of the Vermilion County court.

October 31, 1855—Lincoln addressed a Fusionist rally in the Vermilion County court house. Douglas had been scheduled for an address the day previous, but was compelled to cancel because of illness.

May 27, 1856—Lincoln left unfinished cases in the Vermilion County court to go to Bloomington, where he delivered the "Lost Speech."

May 5, 1858—Lincoln left unfinished cases in the Vermilion County court to go to Beardstown, where he acquitted Duff Armstrong of murder.

September 21, 1858—Lincoln spoke from the balcony of the Fithian home in the evening and delivered a formal reply to Douglas the following day.

November 13, 1859—While attending court in Danville Lincoln signed the contract with James A. Briggs for the delivery of what later was known as the "Cooper Union Speech," in New York City, an address that brought to the East the realization that he was presidential timber.

February 11, 1861—Lincoln had his last view of the Illinois prairie from the rear platform of his special train, as he passed through Danville at 12:10 p. m., en route to Washington, D. C.

When the inventory of the estate of Lincoln was filed by Judge David Davis, the notes of Golden Patterson for \$60.00 and Milton Davis for \$80.00, both residents of Vermilion County, were listed.





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